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Introduction

This account focuses on the life of Thomas Simpson and his Simpson forebears extending back to his great grandparents. It does not include much about his ancestors in other directions or provide details of his numerous descendants. Thomas' final address was within five minutes' walk of his birthplace and for most of his life his home was in the neighbouring streets now called Ernest Avenue, Langmead Street and Beadman Street at West Norwood in south London. However, as a young adult, he travelled as far afield as India and three of his sisters emigrated to America.

The references to St Luke's parish church at West Norwood (formerly Lower Norwood) are usually abbreviated to 'St Luke's'. References to burials at 'West Norwood' mean they were at West Norwood cemetery.

Thank you to:

- The National Archives, Suffolk Archives and London Metropolitan Archives for curating and making available parish registers and other historical documents.
- Internet Archive, FamilySearch and the National Library of Scotland for making freely available online digitised versions of books, maps, newspapers and other resources.
- Vision of Britain.org.uk which makes freely available a vast amount of historical material, much of which is copyright of the Great Britain Historical GIS Project and the University of Portsmouth.
- James Benson Wilson (1905-1949), whose book 'The Story of Norwood'¹ sets out much about its people and places.
- Yvonne Martin, the author of 'Kersey Through the Centuries'², a book with extensive details about the history of the village.
- My father-in-law Thomas Henry Simpson (1896-1992) for sharing his recollections.
- My brother-in-law Peter Simpson for corrections to an earlier version.

Internet links cited were checked on the date of this Introduction. If you find any that no longer work or whose destinations have been changed so they are no longer relevant, you may be able to find the material that the link previously led to by using the Wayback Machine.³

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My connection to Thomas Simpson is that he was my grandfather-in-law.

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¹ <https://www.norwoodsociety.co.uk/books-for-sale/>

² <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Kersey-Through-Centuries-Yvonne-Martin/dp/1399917439/>

³ <https://archive.org/web/>

Simpson, Suffolk and Norwood

Simpson is not an unusual surname in Suffolk. The 1851 census records over 800 people in the county with that precise surname. This can lead to confusion about the identities of family members. However, research in sources that include parish registers and census schedules leaves no doubt that most, if not all, of the Simpsons who during the 19th century moved to Norwood from the part of Suffolk that lies between Ipswich and Sudbury were descendants of Joseph Simpson (c.1763-1840), a man who is first found at Kersey in 1784.

Kersey, situated three miles north-west of Hadleigh, is one of the most picturesque villages in Suffolk. Many of its buildings are half-timbered and some date back to the Middle Ages, reflecting the prosperity of the wool trade at that time. Details of the most notable of these can be seen in Historic England's descriptions of the 81 Listed Buildings in the parish.⁴ The population of Kersey rose rapidly in the early 19th century – from 513 in 1801 to 787 in 1841.⁵ Ten years later, this had declined to 714. It has been calculated that 15 out of 72 households in the Street in that year (21%) were headed by paupers.⁶ Local employment opportunities were limited, the number of children in the same family was often large and illiteracy was widespread. Poverty was probably the greatest motive for leaving rural Suffolk in that era. The presence of relatives and friends who had gone before would have been important in steering migrants to particular destinations.



Green Gables, Kersey

Only one house at Kersey has been identified as the home of members of the Simpson family. The tithe apportionment schedule for the parish of Kersey⁷ and its associated map⁸ were created in 1840-1841. They show a semi-detached cottage and garden on the west side of The Green with an area of 33 perches (0.206 acre) to which it allocated the

⁴ Historic England: Kersey – listed buildings
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/results/?search=kersey&searchType=NHLE+Simple>

⁵ A Vision of Britain through time: Kersey population.
https://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/unit/10261089/cube/TOT_POP

⁶ *Kersey Through the Centuries* by Yvonne Martin, page 144.

⁷ The National Archives: IR29/33/253.

⁸ The National Archives: IR30/33/253.

reference number 158. The property was owned by Mary Worren and occupied by 'John Simpson and another'. The building is now named 'Green Gables'.⁹ The only adult with the name John Simpson who was living at Kersey in June 1841 was an older half-brother of the Robert Simpson who had moved to Norwood. The 1841 census records one adult John Simpson at Kersey, accompanied by his wife Mary and their six youngest children.

Lower Norwood (which was renamed as West Norwood in 1886) is an area about six miles south of the City of London. Before the arrival of the railway in 1856, the population of Norwood was very low, with a large proportion of those living in that locality either very rich or very poor. Census returns provide these figures for the population of Norwood sub-district of Lambeth¹⁰:

- 1841 - 2,961
- 1851 - 3,977
- 1861 - 7,462
- 1871 - 12,536
- 1881 - 19,017
- 1891 - 25,657
- 1901 - 35,888
- 1911 - 62,281

Until the early 19th century, Lower Norwood was poorly served by the Church of England. The parish church of St-Mary-at-Lambeth was five miles away from the junction of Norwood Road and Knights Hill. The nearest Anglican places of worship – at St Leonard, Streatham or the College chapel at Dulwich – were both more than a mile distant. This shortcoming was rectified in 1825 when the massive edifice of St Luke's church was opened to serve the inhabitants of Lower Norwood.



St Luke's church when newly-built

The first record found at Norwood of relatives of the Simpson family dates from 1 April 1827 when Elizabeth, daughter of Robert and Mary Wright, was baptised at St Luke's.

⁹ Historic England: Kersey – Green Gables
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1351483?section=official-list-entry>

¹⁰ A Vision of Britain through time: Norwood sub-District population.
https://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/unit/10539316/cube/TOT_POP

The mother was a sister of Elizabeth Green who married Robert Simpson at the same church in 1829. Both Mary and Elizabeth had been baptised at Semer, a parish that adjoins Kersey.

Norwood was not on a direct route from Suffolk to London, so why did the first Suffolk migrant go there? Perhaps Robert Wright (or another individual from the Kersey area) may have been employed in building St Luke's church – a project which went on for three years. Mrs Elizabeth Broomfield, the building contractor for St Luke's church, was based at Walworth, and may have recruited some of her workers from even closer to central London. However, the idea of church-building as a reason for the earliest arrival of migrants from Suffolk is only one possibility and it lacks other supporting evidence.

Joseph Simpson & Elizabeth Clark – great grandparents

Joseph Simpson was a bachelor living at Kersey when he married Martha Finch there on 23 November 1784. Both made their marks in the register instead of signing their names. Martha was a spinster, living in the same parish. She and her twin sister Catherine had been baptised at Kersey on 24 July 1763, daughters of Edward and Elizabeth Finch, so Martha was about 21 years old at the time of her marriage. Joseph was not baptised at Kersey and his origins are unclear. Evidence pointing to where he may have been born and the possible identity of his parents is discussed in Appendix A.

Joseph & Martha had five children baptised at Kersey:

	Baptised	Married	Buried
Lucy	1785	n/a	1799 Kersey
Samuel	1787		
Joseph	1789	Ann Faiers 1814	1874 Semer
John	1791	Mary Ann Vince 1815	1868 Kersey
Edward	1793	n/a	1819 Kersey

Martha Simpson was buried at Kersey on 14 June 1798, apparently not having quite reached the age of 35.

On 7 October 1802 Joseph married again, his second wife being Elizabeth Clark, a spinster who was also then living at Kersey. Elizabeth, like Joseph, made her mark in the register. The age of 62 reported when Elizabeth died on 22 February 1840 indicates she was born in 1777 or 1778. Suffolk Baptism Index¹¹ includes 28 children with that name baptised in the county during the five years 1775-1779, including these three whose ceremonies took place at Kersey:

- 8 December 1776 - Elizabeth, daughter of Isaac & Eliz. Clarke
- 25 December 1777 - Elizabeth, daughter of James Mann & Martha Clarke
- 28 March 1779 - '*John & Elizabeth Children of John & Susan Clarke Recd. Into the Church March ye 28 John Clark aforesaid is about 2 years & 1 qurtor Old*'.

It is not certain which, if any, of the three was Joseph Simpson's second wife. Martha Clarke & James Mann married at Kersey on 25 October 1778, so it is probable that their

¹¹ Compiled by Suffolk Family History Society.

daughter Elizabeth would after then have used the surname Mann. It follows that either the daughter of Isaac & Elizabeth or of John & Susan are the more likely candidates to have married Joseph Simpson. Alternatively, Joseph's wife may have been baptised somewhere other than Kersey (or not at all).

Joseph & Elizabeth had these children baptised at Kersey:

	Baptised	Married	Buried
Lucy	1804	Stephen Simpson 1832	1843 Groton
Mary Ann	1805	Thomas William Goodall Dicks 1832	1865 Poplar
Robert	1808	Elizabeth Green 1829 Frances Woodward 1849	1874 St Luke's
Maria	1811	John Harknett 1831	1886 West Norwood
William	1813	n/a	1838 Semer
Susan	1817		
Sarah	1820	Joseph Clarke 1850	1869 Whatfield
Thomas	1823	n/a	1824 Semer

Kersey parish register records the burial of Joseph Simpson '*married man, buried March 1st 1811 aged 78*'. It is not known what relationship, if any, he had to the Joseph Simpson who married Martha Finch and Elizabeth Clarke.

The death certificate of Elizabeth Simpson says she was the wife of Joseph Simpson, a labourer, and died of consumption on 22 February 1840. Sarah Simpson of Whatfield registered the death and was almost certainly Joseph and Elizabeth's daughter, as Sarah Simpson (aged 20 to 24) appears at Whatfield in the census held in June 1841. Elizabeth Simpson of Whatfield was buried at Semer aged 62 on 23 February 1840.

Elizabeth was not described as a widow when she died, so there is no doubt that her husband survived her. However, Joseph Simpson had died by the time of his son Robert's second marriage on 19 February 1849.¹² The deaths of only two Joseph Simpsons, both labourers, were registered in the Cosford district during the period 1840-1849.¹³ They were:

Date	Age	Place	Cause of death	Informant
14 October 1840	77	Groton	Old age	Judith Griggs of Groton
11 February 1846	81	Edwardstone	Disease of the kidneys	Susan Simpson of Great Waldingfield

The man who died at Edwardstone in 1846 cannot have been the husband of Elizabeth Clark as a household recorded in the 1841 census of Workhouse Green, Edwardstone consisted of Joseph Simpson & Ann Simpson. Joseph was in the 75-79 age group, Ann in the 70-74 age group and both had been born in Suffolk. There seems little doubt that

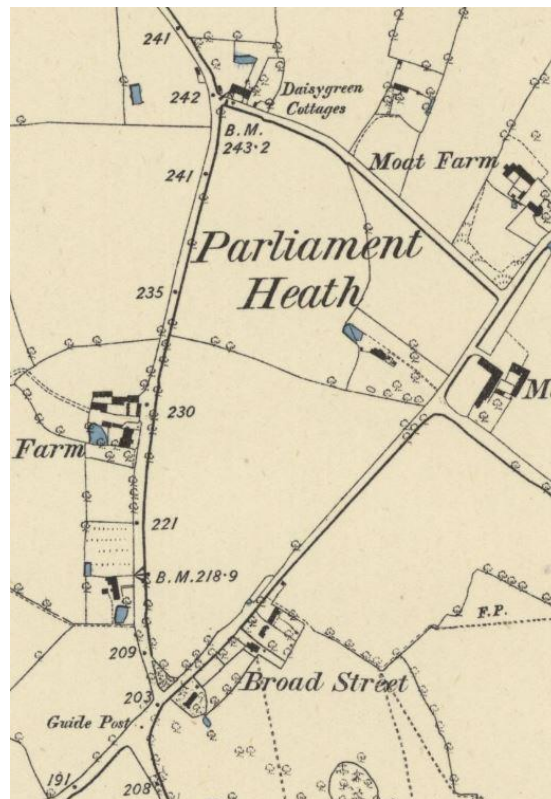
¹² London Metropolitan Archives: P85/LUK/009. St Luke's parish register states that Robert's father was Joseph Simpson, a labourer (deceased).

¹³ Cosford registration district consisted of 31 parishes, including Kersey, Semer and Whatfield. A full list of the parishes can be seen on the UKBMD site.
<https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/reg/districts/cosford.html>

they were the same individuals as Joseph Simpson of Edwardstone and Ann Green of Groton who had married at Edwardstone on 19 December 1786.

Joseph Simpson who died at Groton in 1840 was almost certainly the widower of Elizabeth who died at Whatfield, some six miles away, earlier in the same year. Their daughter Lucy (1804-1843) married Stephen Simpson at Groton in 1832.¹⁴ Stephen and Lucy had four daughters born there during 1833-1839 and were living at Parliament Heath, about a mile north of the parish church, at the time of the 1841 census.

Also, resident in the parish of Groton in 1841 was Lucy's half-brother Joseph Simpson (1789-1874) who was living at Daisey Green, at the north end of Parliament Heath – see the map below which dates from 1885.



After his wife died, Joseph Simpson senior moved to Groton, almost certainly to live either with his son Joseph or his daughter Lucy. It is less likely that he would have lived in the home of Judith Griggs, who was 'in attendance'¹⁵ at his death bed but does not appear to have been a close relative. The 1841 census records Judith and her husband Joseph Griggs living at Broad Street along with three children.

¹⁴ Stephen's other family connection, if any, to the Simpsons at Kersey is not known.

¹⁵ 'In attendance' meant that the person was close at hand but not actually present at the moment when death took place.

Daisy Green Cottages at Parliament Heath are a grade II listed building.¹⁶ The premises were used as Groton workhouse until the 1830s and are now arranged as three houses.



Daisy Green Cottages

Robert Simpson - grandfather

Kersey parish register records the baptism on 20 November 1809 of Robert, son of Joseph Simpson & Elizabeth (late Clark). It adds '*born 21st 1808*' but no month. The 1851 and 1861 censuses of Lower Norwood confirm Robert was born at Kersey.

Robert Simpson and Elizabeth Green were both living in the parish when they married at St Luke's on 11 March 1829. Both made their marks in the register rather than signing their names. This is the earliest record found at Norwood of a person from Suffolk whose surname was Simpson.

Robert & Elizabeth had nine children:

	Baptised	Married	Died/Buried*
Elizabeth	1829	n/a	1830* Semer
George Herman	1831	Louisa Coppin 1852	1900 West Norwood
Hannah	1834	James Curtis 1856	1915 Lambeth
Elizabeth	1836	William Charles Moss 1860	
Robert	1837	n/a	1837* St Luke's
Jane	1838	Arthur Edmund Bache 1861	1919 Lambeth
Mary Ann	1841		
Robert	1842	Emily Pyke 1865	1880 Lambeth
Frederick	1845	Emma Purkiss 1867	1916 Lambeth

¹⁶ Historic England: Daisygreen Cottages.
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1194694?section=official-list-entry>

Migration between Suffolk and Norwood was sometimes a two-way process. Robert and Elizabeth's first child was baptised at St Luke's on 28 June 1829 but by the time she died the family had returned to Suffolk, where her burial on 11 March 1830 was recorded in Semer parish register as Elizabeth Simpson of Whatfield aged 10 months, daughter of Robert & Elizabeth. George Herman was baptised at Semer on 10 April 1831, as was Hannah on 23 February 1834. However, the family were living at Norwood when Elizabeth - the fourth child - was baptised at St Luke's on 15 May 1836. The list of people receiving poor relief at Semer in the earlier part of 1835 includes Robert Simpson. His last payment of 4 shillings was made for the week of 9 May 1835, after which he no longer appears on the list.¹⁷ It must have been between then and the date of the 1836 baptism that Robert and his family returned to Norwood permanently.

Although he was described as a labourer in 1836, by 1838 Robert was a carman. This appears to have been his occupation for the rest of his life.

The 1841 census shows Robert and his family living at the house of William Froud, a wheelwright, in what was then called Elder or Elderhole Road. The house was on the west side of the road and was mentioned by J B Wilson when writing about that side of Norwood High Street:

*'Next to the contractor's yard (which was Mr Clarkson's for many years) stands the quaint little old house now no. 44. This house with its bow-fronted window must have been one of the oldest in the neighbourhood. It was occupied by Mrs Frowd and later by R Booth, a second-hand dealer, who used the wooden shed at the left hand side of it for displaying his goods. The big irregular old cobble-stones in the yard at the side of the house are also of a very early date.'*¹⁸

The Valuation Office survey carried out between 1910 and 1915 reported 44 Norwood High Street as:

*'an old 2 storey cottage built in stock bricks with pantile roof. In poor internal repair and structure is not well maintained.
Accommodation:- 1st floor, 3 rooms. Ground floor, 2 rooms, scullery & WC.'*¹⁹

A picture of 44 Norwood High Street can be seen in Appendix H.

The tithe apportionment schedule for the St Luke, Norwood district of Lambeth parish is dated 8 April 1842²⁰. Along with the associated map²¹ it assigned the reference number 267 for this house and garden, stating that the property was then owned by Robert Parvis and recording the occupiers as 'Froud & Wheeler'.

Although the population of Lower Norwood was quite small in the 1830s and 1840s, Robert and his family were not the only people with the Simpson surname living in the area. A schoolmaster residing at Elm Grove (a large house whose grounds were later developed as Dunbar Street and Dunbar Place) was named Richard Simpson but evidently no relation to the Suffolk Simpsons as Richard had been born at Truro, Cornwall.

¹⁷ Suffolk Archives: FB85/E1/1.

¹⁸ *The Story of Norwood* by J B Wilson, page 33.

¹⁹ The National Archives: IR58/45673, No. 651.

²⁰ The National Archives: IR29/34/92.

²¹ The National Archives: IR30/34/92.

After the death of his wife Elizabeth in 1847, Robert remarried. His second marriage was to a widow, Frances Brown and took place on 19 February 1849 at St Luke's. Frances had been born at Andover, Hampshire, a daughter of a baker named John Woodward.

Robert and Frances had one child:

	Baptised	Married	Buried
Frances Jane	1850	Henry Griggs 1874	1898 West Norwood

Lambeth's poor rate records for the assessment made on 8 January 1850 include the home and premises then occupied by Robert Simpson. The estimated gross rental value was £16 and rateable value £12 per annum. At the rate of one shilling and three pence in the pound, the amount due to be paid by 20 July was 15 shillings. Payment was not made on time, so Robert did not have a vote for the election of the poor law Guardians.²²

At the time of the 1851 census, Robert, Frances and five children were living at '8 High Street'. By 1861, only two children - Robert and Frances - remained at the house recorded as '11 High Street'. Other Suffolk Simpsons living nearby were:

- George Herman at Ernest Place
- Samuel (1830-1909) at 3 Eden Road Upper
- John (1828-1878) at 3 Chapel Place

(Samuel & John were both sons of John Simpson, the half-brother of Robert senior)

Frances Simpson was buried on 24 September 1868, leaving only Robert and his youngest daughter living at '9 High Street' in the 1871 census. His death certificate states that Robert Simpson, a carman, died on 1 March 1874 at '9 High Street Norwood' and records his age as 67 years. The cause of death was chronic bronchitis. Elizabeth Moss of 49 Lion Street, New Kent Road, who had been present at the death, informed the registrar. Her relationship to the Simpson family, if any, is not known. Robert was buried on 7 March 1874, one of the last to be interred in St Luke's churchyard.

It is not clear whether the census references to 8, 9 or 11 High Street relate to the same property or, alternatively, that Robert and his family made short moves during 1851 to 1871. By 1881 renumbering had definitely taken place, with Emily Simpson (Robert's widowed daughter-in-law) living at 65A High Street, which was part of the cottage shown on the following 1951/8-vintage map. For many decades afterwards, that property was the home of members of the Simpson and Frost families; it was demolished about 1965.



²² Lambeth Archives: Poor rate book.

Elizabeth Green - grandmother

Elizabeth, daughter of James Green and his wife Mary Lebborn or Last, was baptised at Semer on 19 July 1807. She was the fifth of their ten children, who were:

	Baptised	Married	Buried/died*
Thomas	1797	Amy Ramplin 1824	1828 Semer
Marian	1800	Robert Wright 1819	1855 St Luke's
James	1802	Dinah Ramplin 1824	1869 St Luke's
Robert	1805	Deborah Ramplin 1829	1879 West Norwood
Elizabeth	1807	Robert Simpson 1829	1847 St Luke's
Jane	1810	James Warner 1831	1880* Lambeth workhouse
Hannah	1811	n/a	1832 Semer
Eliza	1811	n/a	1811 Semer
William	1814	Mary Ann Wyatt 1834	
Susan	1816	James Frost 1839	1886* Lambeth workhouse

Her death certificate states that Elizabeth Simpson aged 40, the wife of Robert Simpson, a carman, died on 17 August 1847. The cause of death was '*inflammation of the uterus after delivery certified*'. Robert had been present at the death and informed the registrar four days later. Elizabeth was buried at St Luke's on 22 August. The youngest of Robert and Elizabeth's children whose birth has been found was Frederick, who was baptised at St Luke's on 12 January 1845. It is highly unlikely that the delivery referred to in the death certificate had taken place over two years earlier. No record has been found of a later child in the Simpson family, either as a baptism or burial at St Luke's or in the form of a suitable birth registered in Lambeth district in 1847, so it appears that Elizabeth's death followed the stillborn delivery in 1847 of her tenth child.

Seven of Elizabeth's nine siblings survived infancy. Thomas was the only one of the seven who did not come to live at Lower Norwood. At the time of the 1851 census, their parents were still living in Suffolk – at the hamlet of Ash Street in the parish of Semer. Mary, their mother, was buried at Semer on 6 May of that year, after which their father James also moved to Norwood – St Luke's register records his burial there from Knights Hill Road on 1 July 1855, inaccurately showing his age as 89 when he was really 82.

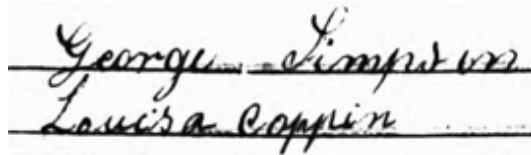
George Herman Simpson - father

'George Heman Simpson' was born at Semer, Suffolk and baptised there on 10 April 1831. He was about four years old when his family returned to Norwood. On the night of the 1851 census, he was recorded as a visitor at 4 Sydenham Place, which is near the bottom of the north side of the road now called Lansdowne Hill. The others present at that address on the census night were his aunt Jane, her husband James Warner, their five children, a lodger and two other visitors.

The 1851 census records George's occupation as a carman, as do numerous other records including his death certificate. His grandson, Thomas Henry Simpson, recounted that family members brought pieces of the Crystal Palace from Hyde Park to be reassembled in its new site at Sydenham, by horse and cart. This major development took place in the early 1850s, before there was access by railway to the new Crystal

Palace site. The carmen would collect items in central London along with a ticket describing them and receive payment on safe delivery, after ascending an extremely steep hill. It is very probable that George was one of the carmen involved.

On 29 August 1852, George married Louisa Coppin at Croydon parish church. Louisa had been born at Stroud Green, just outside Croydon, a daughter of Wheeler James Coppin and his wife Martha Miles. In 1851, Louisa was in service at 2 Elm Grove Place - one of the large villas on the site now occupied by West Norwood Library and which George would have passed as part of the short walk between Sydenham Place and his father's home in the High Street.



The addresses provided when their older children were baptised show that George and Louisa initially were living in these roads in the Norwood area:

- Gipsy Hill (1854)
- Chapel Place (1855)
- High Street (1857).

By the 1861 census, they and their four children then alive were to be found in a cottage at Ernest Place.

George & Louisa's children are listed in the following table.
'Norwood MA' means Norwood, Massachusetts, USA.

	Born	Married	Died
Susan	1853		
Frederick	1854	n/a	1854 Lambeth
Eliza	1855	John Webb 1879	
Jane	1857	Joseph Robert Purkiss 1887	1910 Essex
Frederick George	1859		
Elizabeth	1862	George James Warren Ivatts 1891	1941 Norwood MA
Caroline	1864	Ernest Edward Letts 1896	1933 Norwood MA
Mary	1864	Gundulph Drew Ingall 1900	1951 Bromley ²³
Joseph Robert	1866	Henrietta Sarah Taylor Marsh 1891	1945 Lambeth
Thomas	1868	Sarah Langridge 1893	1941 Coulsdon
Charles	1870	Johanna O'Connell 1893	1919 Lambeth
Louisa Martha	1873	Sidney Knight 1894	1951 Lambeth
Alice	1875	Frederick Feaver 1896	1939 Norwood MA

The names and birthdates of all the children apart from Frederick who died in infancy were recorded in a family Bible, along with a note about Thomas being recruited by the Army. A picture of the page can be seen in Appendix C.

²³ The death of Mary Ingall was registered at Bromley district. The National Probate Index states that her address was 69 Crystal Palace Park Road, Sydenham.

As the numbers in the family grew, their home became more crowded. In 1871, 3 Ernest Place contained George and Louisa, their nine children, and also Peter Chandler, a 62-year-old carman, with his two teenage sons - a total of 14 people. By 1881, the family had moved to 4 Ernest Place (or maybe the houses were renumbered). More details about the history of Ernest Place and the accommodation provided there can be seen in Appendix D. Information about the three daughters of George and Louisa who emigrated to America is set out in Appendix E.

George Herman Simpson died on 26 December 1900 at 4 Ernest Place. The cause of death was certified as 'Sarcoma (ribs), Asthenia, Cardiac failure'.²⁴ His daughter Mary, whose home was then at 187 Rommany Road, was present at the death and notified the registrar. The funeral took place on 1 January 1901 when he was buried at West Norwood.²⁵ He was buried in a public grave at square 71.

Louisa Coppin – mother

The register of St James church Croydon records the baptism on 10 October 1830 of 'Louisa daughter of James & Martha Coppin of Stroud Green, laborer'.

Her parents, Wheeler James Coppin and Martha Miles, had married at Croydon parish church in 1819 and produced these children:

	Baptised	Married	Died
Mary Ann	1820		
James	1821	Ann Ricketts 1855	1900 Lambeth
Susan	1823		
John	1826	Grace Penhaligon 1846	1906 Camberwell
Louisa	1830	George Herman Simpson 1852	1906 Lambeth
George	1835		

Wheeler James Coppin was 47 years old when he died of consumption on 15 August 1839. When he was buried six days later at All Saints, Upper Norwood, the register recorded his abode as 'Blind Corner', a small settlement at the junction of the east end of Harrington Road, South Norwood and Love Lane.

The 1841 census found Martha Coppin and her five youngest children sharing a cottage at Leatherbottle Lane (now Spa Hill), Upper Norwood with William French, an agricultural labourer, and four children with the French surname. Martha and William married on 27 May 1848 at St George the Martyr, Southwark. However, on 7 May 1849 Martha died of 'Severe spasmodic vomiting followed by apoplexy'. The death certificate described her as the wife of William French, a farmer, and the place at which she died as Park Road, Norwood (now Elder Road). She was buried seven days later at All Saints, Upper Norwood.

When the 1851 census was held, Louisa Coppin was the only resident servant at 2 Elm Grove Place (later 3 Norwood High Street), which was one of a series of four large semi-

²⁴ Sarcoma is a type of cancer, asthenia refers to an associated lack of energy.

²⁵ London Metropolitan Archives: DW/T/0955. Bishops transcript for West Norwood cemetery, number A28768.

detached residences that stood on the site now occupied by West Norwood library, backing onto the cemetery and which were destroyed in 1944 by a flying bomb. George Coleman Tucker, the 78-year-old householder, was a 'Land & Fund Holder', the other residents both being described as his nieces. George Coleman Tucker was buried at West Norwood on 26 May 1855. His will was proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 8 June 1855. The extensive assets specifically mentioned in the will included *'those six freehold messuages or tenements Nos. 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 Sydenham Place Norwood'*, a list which embraced the house where George Simpson had been a visitor at the time of the census four years earlier.



1, 3 & 5 Norwood High Street
(formerly 1, 2 & 3 Elm Grove Place)

The 1901 census was held just over three months after Louisa's husband died. By then she had moved the short distance from Ernest Place to 45 Ernest Street and was living in the household of her daughter and son-in-law Louisa and Sidney Knight, along with their two young children. That address remained Louisa's home for the rest of her life. She was buried at West Norwood on 14 April 1906 in a public grave at square 106.

Thomas Simpson

Thomas Simpson, the tenth of the 13 children of George Herman and Louisa Simpson, was born on 7 July 1868 at Ernest Place, Lower Norwood.

On 27 July 1878, Thomas Simpson of 4 Ernest Place along with Frank Tennant of 4 Wood Street and William Bruce of East Place appeared at Croydon Police Court accused of stealing two letters (one containing a cheque) from a letter-box at Church Road, Upper Norwood. The mothers said that they had sent the boys to school on that day but police enquiries found that they had been absent from school on the relevant day. After hearing detailed evidence about the condition of the post box and whether or not it was easy to extract letters from it, the case was adjourned and the boys remanded back to where they were being held on remand – *'At hearing this the boys cried very much, and the*

parents seemed to feel their unfortunate position'.²⁶ A further hearing took place on 8 August when the post office authorities did not press charges against the two younger boys (Thomas and William both being nine years old) but thought Frank Tenant was deserving of punishment. The Chairman 'addressed the parents of the children, discharged Simpson and Bruce, but ordered Tennant to be sent to the House of Correction for three calendar months as an example to others'.²⁷

On 11 October 1880, Thomas was admitted as a pupil at Salters Hill (now Kingswood) school, having previously attended Gipsy Road school. However, he did not remain at Salters Hill for long, as the register states that he left 14 days later, describing him as a truant.²⁸

Sections 14 to 17 of the Industrial Schools Act 1866²⁹ determined the types of children who could be detained in a certified industrial school or training ship. For instance, if a magistrate decided that a child under the age of 14 was in need of care and protection, the child could be committed there until the age of 16. One of these establishments was the training ship 'Mount Edgcumbe', which was anchored off Saltash from 1877 to 1920. When the census was held on 3 April 1881, Thomas Simpson, a scholar aged 12 and born at Norwood, Surrey was amongst the 191 inmates on board. It is not known exactly why Thomas had been sent to the training ship, when he had arrived there or for how long he stayed. Pictures of the ship and a description of the disciplined way in which it was run can be seen on the 'Saltash History and Heritage' website.³⁰

Military records provide considerable details about Thomas during the period 1885-1897.³¹ He had been working as a carman before enlisting in the Army at Bermondsey on 10 September 1885, when he was described as 5ft 6 in tall, weighing 151 lb. with a fresh complexion, blue eyes and brown hair. He was initially stationed as a private in the Royal West Surrey Regiment at Guildford but on 10 April 1886 transferred to the 8th Hussars, a cavalry regiment, and allocated 2974 as his regimental number. Three days later, Thomas arrived at Canterbury barracks, where in June and July of that year he spent 41 days in hospital suffering from an abscess of the tibia.

Regimental muster books and pay lists state that Thomas disembarked at Bombay (now Mumbai) on 8 October 1886. 'Musters' were roll calls held at the end of every month – these confirm that Thomas was stationed at Meerut throughout his service in India. In July 1887, he was awarded 'good conduct pay' at the rate of one penny per day.³²

Meerut – some 40 miles north-east of Delhi – is a city notable as one of the first places affected by the Indian Mutiny in 1857. From 16 October 1886, Thomas was based there,

²⁶ *Norwood News* 3 August 1878 page3 column3.

²⁷ *Norwood News* 10 August 1878 page 3 column 4.

²⁸ London Metropolitan Archives: LCC/EO/DIV08/SAL/AD/001 Salter's Hill School Admission and Discharge register for Boys, admission number 535.

²⁹ *The Reformatory and Industrial Schools Acts* (HMSO London 1896), pages 53 to 61.

³⁰ <https://archive.org/details/reformatoryandi00britgoog/page/n67/mode/2up>

³⁰ Saltash History and Heritage: TS Mount Edgcumbe.
<https://saltash.org/saltash-history/training-ship-mount-edgcumbe/>

³¹ The National Archives: WO97/3862/70.

³² The National Archives: WO16/2762.

presumably living in its large cantonment (the military area). A contemporary description of the city of Meerut states that its population amounted to 60,948, with a further 38,617 in the cantonment.³³ It is unlikely that he was ever involved in military action – additional troops had been sent to India because of fears that Russia might have designs there but that proved to be a false alarm.



Meerut, about 1908
Image courtesy of Beverly Hallam

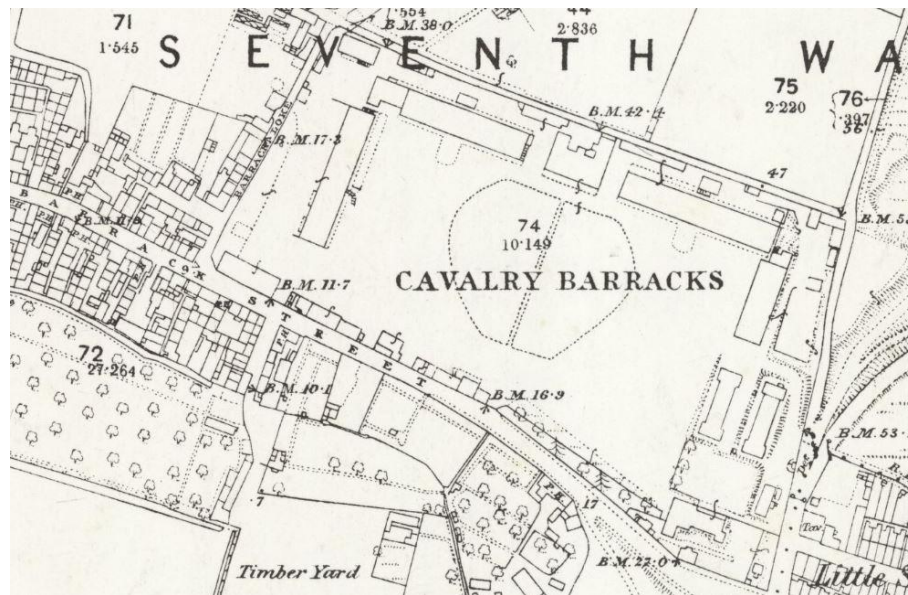
Thomas' military history sheet states that he served in India from 7 September 1886 until 19 November 1889. It appears that this period includes the voyages there and back, as he arrived in India in October 1886 and was recorded as being on board the troopship HMS Crocodile on 26 October 1889.



HMS Crocodile by William Frederick Mitchell
via Wikimedia Commons

³³ *The Imperial Gazetteer of India* by Sir William Wilson Hunter (London, 1886), volume IX page 393.
<https://archive.org/details/imperialgazettee09huntuoft/page/394/mode/2up>

Thomas arrived at Shorncliffe, Kent on 21 November 1889, moving on to Aldershot on 22 July 1890. His regiment was stationed at the Cavalry Barracks at Norwich (later known as Nelson Barracks)³⁴ from 1 October 1890 onwards. These barracks occupied a large site on the north side of Barrack Street, the blocks standing on the western side of the square with horse stables on the ground floor and accommodation for the troops above. The riding school was towards the east, with administrative buildings behind the Barrack Street wall. A more detailed description can be found in an article that is now preserved on the Wayback Machine.³⁵ The following map shows the layout of the barracks in 1883-1884.



Nelson barracks were demolished in the 1950s, but pictures of some of the buildings can be seen at the 'George Plunkett's Photographs' site³⁶. The private soldiers of the 8th Hussars listed at Norwich Barracks by the census on 5 April 1891 included Thomas Simpson aged 21, who had been born at 'W. Norwood, Surrey'. He was transferred to the Army Reserve on the 24th of the same month and finally discharged from the Army on 9 September 1897, as 12 years had passed since he originally enlisted. At the time of his transfer to the reserves, the Colonel commanding the regiment described Thomas' habits and conduct as 'Good regular & temperate'.

All the addresses where Thomas has been located after he returned to England are at Langmead Square (since renamed as Langmead Street) or Beadman Street – adjacent roads which are almost immediately south of West Norwood station. Details of that locality appear as Appendix F.

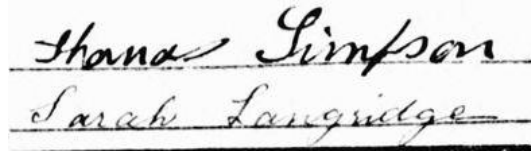
³⁴ The Cavalry/Nelson Barracks should not to be confused with Britannia Road Barracks, which are also at Norwich.

³⁵ Norwich Heart: *The Military in Norwich* by Andy Anderson.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20160304071812/https://www.heritagecity.org/research-centre/cultural-superlatives/the-military-in-norwich.htm>

³⁶ <http://www.georgeplunkett.co.uk/Norwich/barracks.htm>

On 15 October 1893, Thomas married Sarah Langridge at St Luke's. For both it was their first marriage and both their addresses were recorded as 10 Langmead Square.

A photograph of two handwritten signatures on lined paper. The top signature is 'Thomas Simpson' and the bottom signature is 'Sarah Langridge'.

Their children were:

	Born	Married	Died
Ethel Mabel	1894	n/a	1895
Olive Mary	1895	n/a	1896
Thomas Henry	1896	Edith Violet Rose Stafford 1928	1992
Arthur John	1899	Ellen Louisa Payne 1917	1953

The family were living at 10 Langmead Square when Ethel Mabel was buried at West Norwood on 14 November 1895 aged 13 months. She had died at home four days previously, the cause of death being certified as marasmus, which is malnutrition caused by protein deficiency. Emily Frost of 26 Dunbar Street, was present at the death and the person who informed the registrar. She was described as the child's aunt.³⁷ Olive Mary was two months old when she died on 4 January 1896 at 10 Langmead Street of measles and convulsions, the registrar being informed on the same day by her mother who had been present at the death. Six days later, the burial took place at West Norwood.

The 1901 census recorded Thomas as working as a carman and sharing four rooms at 8 Langmead Street with his wife, children, father-in-law and brother-in-law.

The following picture was taken about 1952. It shows part of the front of 8 Langmead Street and has been provided courtesy of Ken Rhoades.



³⁷ The precise relationship was that Emily Mary Ann Simpson (1867-1952) who married William Thomas Frost on 25 December 1886 at All Saints, Upper Norwood was as a cousin of Ethel's father.

Thomas and Sarah's two youngest children were both baptised at St Luke's on 7 November 1901.

When completing his schedule for the 1911 census, Thomas reported that he and his two sons occupied a '1 room apartment' at 3 Beadman Street. His occupation was recorded as a labourer. Thomas Henry was also working and Arthur John still at school. The Valuation Office survey carried out within a few years of that census described 3 Beadman Street as part of a:

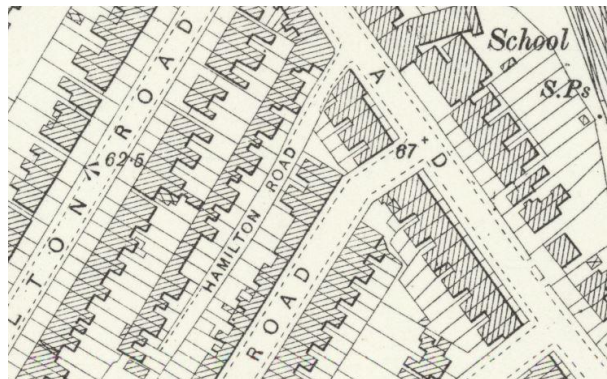
*'Row of 2 storey and ½ basement cottages, front and back elevations cement rendered, slated roof, lean-to scullery & WC.
Accommodation:- Top floor 4 small rooms. Ground floor 2 rooms. ½ basement 2 rooms, scullery & WC.
In fair structural repair and bad internal repair.'*³⁸

When the census was held in June 1921, Thomas was living on his own in two rooms at 7 Langmead Square. His job was as a labourer for 'Charing Cross and West End Electric Light', a business whose full name was the 'Charing Cross, West End and City Electricity Supply Company Limited'.

The population register compiled in September 1939 included Thomas Simpson, a night watchman, among the eight residents of 7 Langmead Street. This was the home address recorded on his death certificate. Towards the end of his life, he was admitted initially to a hospital in London. In order to make space available for air-raid casualties, he was one of the patients transferred further afield and taken to Coulsdon where he expired on 19 January 1941. The cause of death was certified as senility and myocardial failure; he also suffered from rheumatoid arthritis. His funeral took place eight days later at West Norwood, where he was buried at square 44 in a public grave, number 22293.

Sarah Langridge - wife

Sarah, a daughter of Thomas Langridge and Mary Ann Stack, was born on 8 October 1870 at 10 Hamilton Road, Brixton. Hamilton Road (now Mumford Road) ran off the south side of Dulwich Road close to Herne Hill station. The cottage where Sarah was born no longer stands. Hamilton Road is shown on this map which dates from 1893-4.



³⁸ The National Archives: IR58/45673, Nos. 620 & 621.

No record has been found for the marriage of Sarah's parents and it is not clear whether Thomas was the father of one or both of her older siblings Edward and Olive, each of whom were born at Lambeth workhouse and registered with the surname Stack, no father being recorded. The children of Sarah's mother were:

	Born	Married	Died
Edward	1866	n/a	1869 Lambeth workhouse
Olive	1869	William John Cox 1889	1960 Wandsworth
Sarah	1870	Thomas Simpson 1893	1907 Lambeth
Thomas Albert	1872	Emily Susan Branch 1891	1947 Essex
William	1873	Jane Harriett Cox 1897	1956 Kent
Emma	1876	n/a	1877 Lambeth
Henry	1876	n/a	1909 Lambeth
Lizzie Mabel	1880	John Wightman 1900	1972 Croydon
Arthur John	1882	Lavinia Harriett Atkins 1905 Ethel Maria Broadway 1909	1954 Buckinghamshire

The 1871 census shows Thomas Langridge and his family at 10 Hamilton Road. The cottage must have been crowded, as it contained two households with a total of 12 people. One household consisted of Jane Garwood and four others; the other was headed by John Brooks with his wife and son; Thomas and Mary Langridge and their two small children were lodgers with the Brooks family. The census described Mary Langridge as 25 and born in Lambeth. Olive was stated to be aged two and wrongly recorded as male; Sarah was then aged seven months.

Thomas and Mary Ann were living at 15 Linton Cottages, Church Street, Edmonton when Lizzie Mabel was born on 30 May 1880. The family were recorded in the 1881 census at 16 Linton Cottages, including '*Olive Langridge*' aged 12 and born at Lambeth, who was described as Thomas' daughter.

Sarah lost her mother on 15 March 1885 when Mary Ann Langridge died at 4 Hamilton Road, having suffered from pulmonary phthisis (i.e. tuberculosis) for two years and also catarrhal pneumonia. She was buried at Lambeth Cemetery (grave 529 K 3) seven days later.

Lizzie Mabel recalled that her father was particular in his requirements and would not allow covering for floor or table, the females of the family being required to keep the wood of both white by scrubbing. At meal times he insisted on eating first, and alone; only after he left the table could the rest of the family sit down to eat.

In the 1891 census, Thomas was described as a 56-year-old widower who worked as a ground labourer. He lived in two rooms at 4 Langmead Square and was accompanied by three of his children - Sarah (aged 20), who was employed as a housekeeper; Mabel (aged 10) and Arthur (aged 9), who were both scholars. As Arthur had been born in the Herne Hill area, it seems that the family left Edmonton to return to south London soon after the 1881 census.

At one stage, Thomas Langridge worked as a watchman for Lambeth Vestry; his grandson, Thomas Henry Simpson, was sent each week to collect his grandfather's wages from a little office in East Street (now East Place), West Norwood.

On 15 July 1907, Sarah was admitted to Lambeth Infirmary.³⁹ She died there at 7.20 am on 6 August, the cause of death being recorded as '*status epilepticus*'.⁴⁰ – a rare epileptic seizure that lasts for longer than five minutes or recurs within a five minutes period.⁴¹ Thomas Henry Simpson recalled sitting in the corridor outside the ward where his mother was a patient and that after his mother died, his father emerged from the ward and said something along the lines of "It's time to go home, son".

Sarah was buried at West Norwood on 12 August.⁴² Cemetery records state that she was buried in a public grave at square 106.

Sarah's father, Thomas Langridge, died of '*tubercle of lung*' at Lambeth Infirmary, Brook Street, Kennington on 31 January 1911. The death certificate describes him as a '*carman of 8 Wood Street, West Norwood*', the informant being his son W Langridge, whose home was at 15 Rothschild Street. The funeral took place seven days later at West Norwood. Wood Street (later renamed as Dunbar Place) has since been entirely demolished. The census held on 2 April 1911 records the four-room cottage at number 8 as the home of William and Ellen Elizabeth Challis and two sons, so it is likely that Thomas lodged with them before being admitted to the infirmary.

³⁹ London Metropolitan Archives: H01/L/B/01/14. Lambeth Infirmary admission & discharge book.

⁴⁰ London Metropolitan Archives: H01/L/B/10/006. Lambeth Infirmary register of deaths.

⁴¹ Johns Hopkins Medicine: Status Epilepticus.

<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/status-epilepticus>

⁴² London Metropolitan Archives: DW/T/0959. Bishops transcript for West Norwood cemetery, number A39713.

**Descent of Thomas Henry Simpson
 from Joseph Simpson & Elizabeth Clark**

Joseph SIMPSON born c.1763 married 1802 Kersey died 1840 Groton	Elizabeth CLARK born c.1777 died 1840 Whatfield
Robert SIMPSON born 1808 Kersey married 1829 St Luke Lower Norwood died 1874 Lower Norwood	Elizabeth GREEN baptised 1807 Semer died 1847 Lower Norwood
George Herman SIMPSON baptised 1831 Semer married 1852 St John Croydon died 1900 West Norwood	Louisa COPPIN baptised 1830 St James Croydon died 1906 West Norwood
Thomas SIMPSON baptised 1868 Lower Norwood married 1893 St Luke Lower Norwood died 1941 Coulsdon	Sarah LANGRIDGE born 1870 Brixton died 1907 Lambeth
Thomas Henry SIMPSON born 1896 West Norwood married 1928 Camberwell died 1992 West Norwood	Edith Violet Rose STAFFORD born 1907 Southwark died 1991 Lambeth

Appendix A – Origins of Joseph Simpson who died at Groton in 1840

The age of 77 recorded when he died on 14 October 1840 indicates that he was born in 1763 or 1762. Suffolk Baptism Index and FamilySearch records point to the following baptisms in the county during 1760-1770 of children with the name Joseph Simpson:

Date	Father	Mother	Parish	Miles to Kersey	Notes
2 Aug 1761	Joseph junior	Elizabeth	Nayland	14	Buried 5 Aug 1764
18 April 1762	Samuel	Sarah	Waldringfield	20	
29 April 1764	William	Hannah	Groton	4	
17 Jan 1768	Joseph	Elizabeth	Nayland	14	
14 Feb 1768	William	Mary	Pettistree	24	
29 July 1770	Joseph	Sarah	South Elham	38	

The most plausible of these baptisms to be the person who died at Groton in 1840 is the son of William & Hannah who was baptised in the same parish in 1764. However, another individual is also a strong candidate to have been that particular child. Joseph Simpson, a single man of Edwardstone, and Ann Green, a single woman of Groton, married at Edwardstone on 19 December 1786. They appear to have been the parents of four children whose baptism details are:

- James, 1787 at Groton
- John, 1788 at Edwardstone
- Stephen, 1789 at Edwardstone
- Mary, 1794 at Edwardstone

The 1841 census records Joseph & Ann Simpson living at Edwardstone. When Joseph Simpson died there on 11 February 1846, his age was recorded as 81, which indicates birth in 1764 or 1765.

The two Joseph Simpsons were of very similar age; it has not been possible to establish which of them was baptised at Groton or where the other one came from. The most plausible baptism record found for the person who was not baptised at Groton in 1764 is the one in 1768 at Nayland (which is 16 years before the first Joseph Simpson marriage at Kersey and 18 years before the Joseph Simpson marriage at Edwardstone). However, the Joseph Simpson who was not baptised at Groton in 1764 may have come from:

- Another county (the nearest part of Essex is only ten miles from Kersey), or
- A family whose children were not christened in the Church of England, or
- A parish in Suffolk whose baptism registers either do not survive or have not been accurately indexed.

Appendix B – The Simpson area of Suffolk

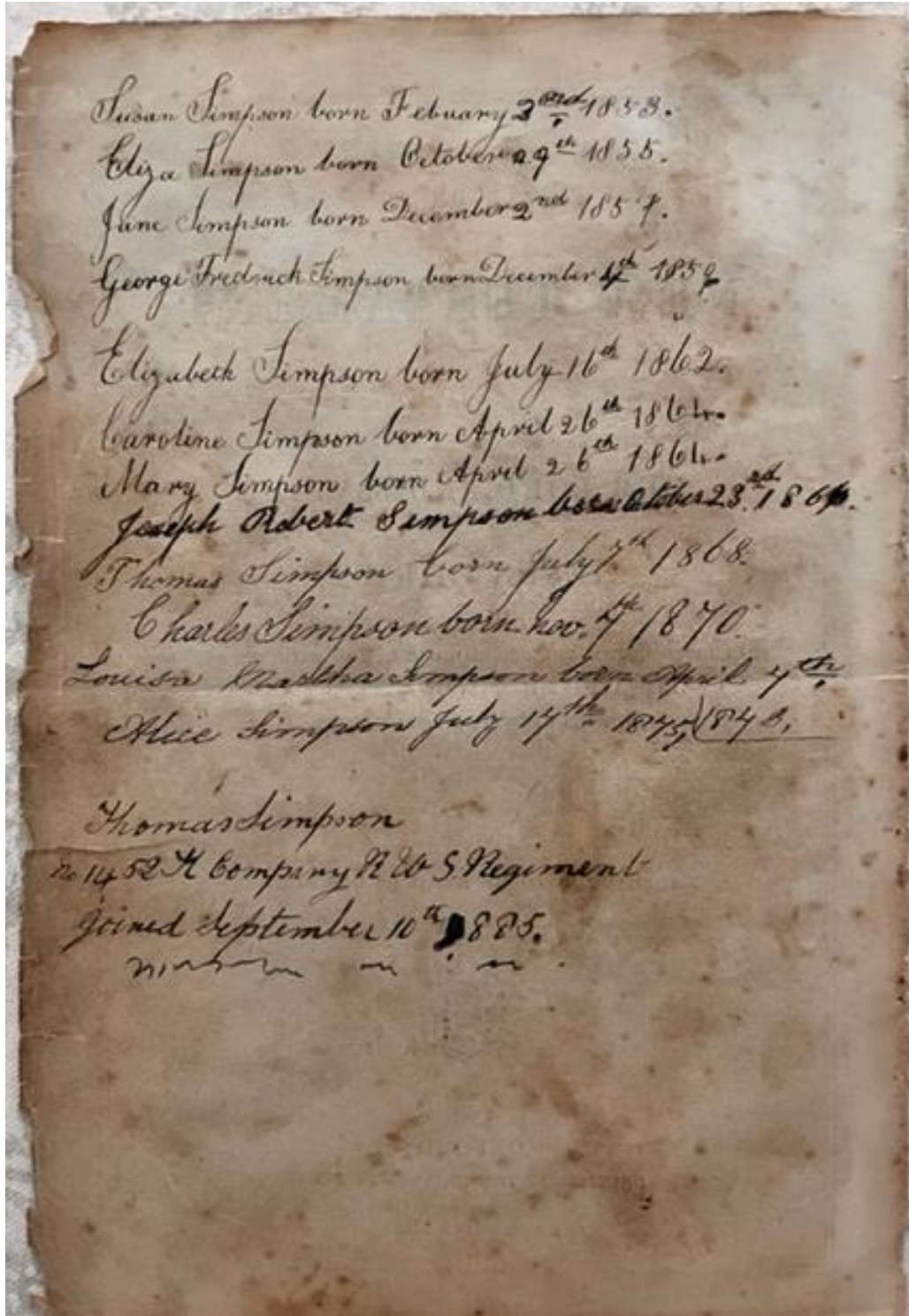
This map shows Ash Street, Edwardstone, Groton, Kersey, Parliament Heath, Semer and Whatfield. It comes from Ordnance Survey charts from 1892-1908 and is rotated so north is to the left.

You can zoom into the map online and see details more clearly by using this link:

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/print/#zoom=13.4&lat=52.05905&lon=0.88052&layers=1&b=1&o=100>



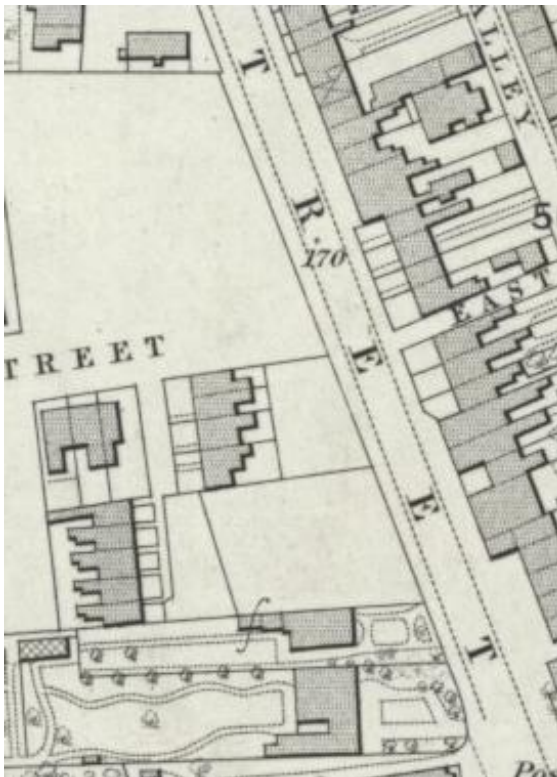
Appendix C – Simpson family Bible extract



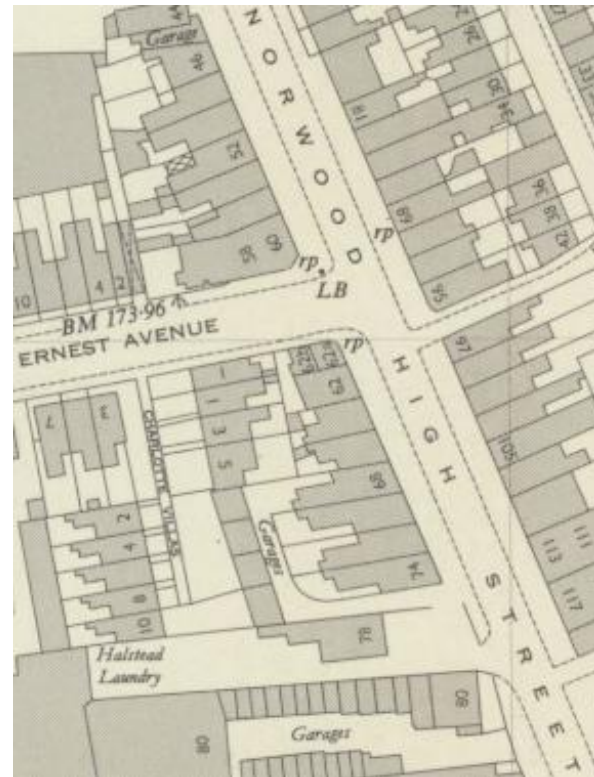
Appendix D – Ernest Place

Ernest Place was the name given to a row of four cottages on the east side of a dead end which led off the south side of Ernest Street (now Ernest Avenue), a very short distance west of its junction with the High Street.

Ernest Place was the home of George Herman Simpson and his family from the time of the 1861 census (or earlier) until 1901, just after his death. It has not been possible to find a picture of the property. The Ordnance Survey map dating from 1870 includes the houses at Ernest Place but does not mention that name. In 1936, street renaming and renumbering converted 1-4 (consecutive) Ernest Place to the addresses shown on the map dated 1951 as 1 Ernest Avenue and 1, 3 and 5 Charlotte Villas respectively. Therefore, the final address for 4 Ernest Place was 5 Charlotte Villas.



1870



1951

4 Ernest Place and a number of neighbouring properties in Ernest Street, Ernest Place and Charlotte Place formed a single lot which was offered for sale by auction at the Guildhall Coffee House, Gresham Street on 24 August 1871. The printed particulars advised that the houses were in the occupation of Weekly Tenants (the Landlord paying the rates and taxes) at 7 shillings and 6 pence per week each and stated:

'Each House is approached through a Forecourt and contains Two Bed Rooms, Two Sitting Rooms, Kitchen or Wash-house, and Yard in Rear with w.c. No. 4 ERNEST PLACE, has an extra Bed Room over the Wash-house; and the Houses in CHARLOTTE PLACE have a Large piece of Garden Ground in Front, suitable for the erection of several similar Houses.'

On 4 November 1872, the property included in the particulars was sold to the South London Cooperative Building Company Limited.⁴³

The Valuation Office survey carried out between 1910 and 1915 provides a snapshot of land and property at that time and includes this description of 4 Ernest Place:

'Old fashioned double and flat fronted house. Brick built with brick quoins and dressings. Front wall of clinker rubble with brick gable. Rather attractive looking cottage. 2 storey back addition.

Accommodation – 1st floor 3 bedrooms. Ground floor Parlour, kitchen, washhouse. Small yard at rear with outside WC.

*Structure and repair generally in very good state considering age. Internal repair & condition about average.'*⁴⁴

At that stage, the actual or estimated weekly rent was 8 shillings and 6 pence.

All the houses at Charlotte Villas were demolished before 1969.

⁴³ Lambeth Archives: Surrey Collection, C138.

⁴⁴ The National Archives: IR58/45675, No.855.

Appendix E – Three sisters in America

Unless stated otherwise, references to 'Norwood' in this Appendix relate to the place in Massachusetts.

Norwood, Massachusetts is about 14 miles south-west of the centre of Boston. It was established as a separate town in 1872 and - according to an unsourced statement in Wikipedia - was '*named after Norwood, England*'. Its population increased from 3,733 (1890) to 12,627 (1920) and amounted to 31,611 when the census was held in 2020.

Three daughters of George Herman and Louisa Simpson emigrated to the United States, all of them settling at Norwood. It is not known whether the earliest of the family to arrive from West Norwood was attracted to the place across the ocean by its name or whether any others had made that particular journey beforehand.

Caroline (Simpson) Letts

Caroline was 32 when on 21 October 1896 she married Ernest Edward Letts at Norwood. Like Caroline, he had been born at Lower Norwood, England, his birth being registered in June quarter 1868 at Lambeth district and his baptism took place at All Saints, Upper Norwood on 14 June of that year. He arrived at Massachusetts in 1893.⁴⁵ Her 1920 census record states that Caroline moved to the United States in 1895.

Caroline and Ernest's children were:

	Born	Married	Died
Caroline Louisa	1897	n/a	1897
Bessie Edith	1898	n/a	2004
George Ernest	1900	n/a	1901
Louisa Victoria	1902	George Elmer Goodwin	
Lilian Maude	1904	Carl Russell	1989

The 1900 census records Caroline, Ernest and Bessie as living at Norwood and Ernest's occupation as a painter. Ten years later, the couple's home was at 510 Nahatan Street, in Norwood, accompanied by all three surviving children.

Ernest Edward Letts died in 1915 and was buried at Highland cemetery, Norwood.⁴⁶

Caroline and her three daughters were still living at 510 Nahatan Street at the time of the 1920 census. In 1930, Caroline was still at that address, sharing the house with her daughter Bessie.

Caroline died in 1933 and was buried at Highland cemetery.

⁴⁵ Naturalisation petition, 19 February 1908.

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9Z5-FH2V?i=510&cc=2140604&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQLY5-8Y25>

⁴⁶ Tombstone in Highland cemetery commemorates Ernest E Letts 1868-1915, Caroline S his wife 1864-1933 & Bessie Edith Letts 1898-2004.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/167986368/ernest-e-letts>

Elizabeth (Simpson) Ivatts

Elizabeth Simpson was 29 years old when on 11 October 1891 she married George James Warren Ivatts at St Mark Shoreditch. Their children were:

	Born	Married	Died
George William	1893 Shoreditch		1952 Canada ⁴⁷
Alice Gertrude	1894 Shoreditch	Everett M Breen c.1923	1968 ⁴⁸
Joseph Thomas	1896 Bethnal Green	n/a	1897 Stepney
William James	1898 Stepney	Marion A Rogers	1984

George James Warren Ivatts died in 1898 and was buried at City of London & Tower Hamlets Cemetery, whose records give his address as 14 New Tower Buildings High Street Wapping. The day book of burials provides a serial number of 502 and what appears to be the grave number of U128.

In 1901, Elizabeth was living in a three-room house at 187 Rommany Road, West Norwood and worked on her own account as a laundress. Her sons George and William were living with her, as were Ellen and Emma Hamlin, who were described boarders then working as ironers. Gundulph D Ingall – Elizabeth's brother-in-law – was recorded as a separate household at the same address. Elizabeth's daughter Alice was staying with her grandfather William Ivatts at 5 Ivy Street, Hoxton Old Town.

In 1907, Elizabeth and all three surviving children emigrated to the United States. On 2 April, they departed from Liverpool on board 'Saxonia', a vessel which was one of the Cunard Line and had been launched in 1900. They arrived at Boston, Massachusetts ten days later.⁴⁹

Census records include Elizabeth at these addresses:

- 1920 – 132 Washington Street, Westwood (with three children)⁵⁰
- 1930 – Elks Parkway, Norwood (with daughter Alice Breen and her husband)
- 1940 – 129 Broadway Street, Norwood (with son George)

Elizabeth Ivatts died in 1941 and was buried at Highland cemetery.⁵¹

⁴⁷ Tombstone in Dales cemetery, Cumberland, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada commemorates Driver George W Ivatts 1893-1952.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/222521899/george-w-ivatts>

⁴⁸ Tombstone in Highland cemetery commemorates William J Ivatts 1898-1984, Marion A his wife 1900-1980 & Dorothy E 1924-1932 || Everett M Breen 1895-1975 & Alice G his wife 1894-1968.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/144625726/marion-a-ivatts>

⁴⁹ *Shipping Gazette and Lloyds List* 13 April 1907 page 10 column 4.

⁵⁰ Westwood is adjacent to Norwood.

⁵¹ Tombstone in Highland cemetery commemorates Elizabeth Ivatts 1862-1941.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/170006837/elizabeth-ivatts>

Alice (Simpson) Feaver

Alice was 21 years old when on 26 September 1896 she married Frederick Feaver of Curnicks Lane at St Luke's. The son of William Feaver, he was working as a painter. Their children, all born at West Norwood, were:

	Born	Married	Died
Frederick William Charles	1897	Catherine R Kirk	1951
Ada Louisa	1898		
Herman George	1903	Marion Nowell	1989

The 1901 census recorded Alice and the two older children living in a 3-room house at 173 Rommany Road, extremely close to number 187 where her sister Elizabeth was living at the time.



173 Rommany Road



187 Rommany Road

In 1907, the Feaver family emigrated to the United States as passengers on the same voyage of the 'Saxonia' as taken by Alice's sister Elizabeth Ivatts and her children.

The 1910 census records Frederick, Alice and their three children living at 241 Nahatan Street, Norwood. They were at the same address when the census was held in 1920, the son Frederick having left home by then. By the 1930 census, Frederick and Alice had moved to 2 Day Street, Norwood.

Alice Feaver died in 1939 at Norwood.

Appendix F – Langmead Street

Writing before 1949, J B Wilson provided this comment about the area:

*'Mr Langmead, who built Langmead Square, intended them to be high-class dwellings, but as our American friends would say they "failed to make the grade", and were let out as tenements.'*⁵²

Charles Booth conducted a detailed inquiry into the life and labour of people in London. Many details can be found at *Charles Booth's London*, a website which includes scanned images of the original notebooks and maps.⁵³ Amongst the clergy interviewed in December 1900 were:

- Rev H T Hughes, the vicar of St Luke's West Norwood, who commented '*Except in some slummy streets off High Street (e.g. East Street, Langmead Square etc) there is no great poverty in the parish*'.⁵⁴
- Rev Walter Hobbs of Gipsy Hill Baptist Church who mentioned '*Round the old church especially there is a great deal of poverty in East Place, Langmead Square, Wood Street, Gloucester Street and Change Alley*'.⁵⁵

This map is based on a survey in 1951 and shows the numbering of the particular houses in Langmead Street. All have since been demolished.



⁵² *The Story of Norwood* by J B Wilson, page 32.

⁵³ *Charles Booth's London*.

<https://booth.lse.ac.uk/about>

⁵⁴ Notebook: Clergy District 40, page 215.

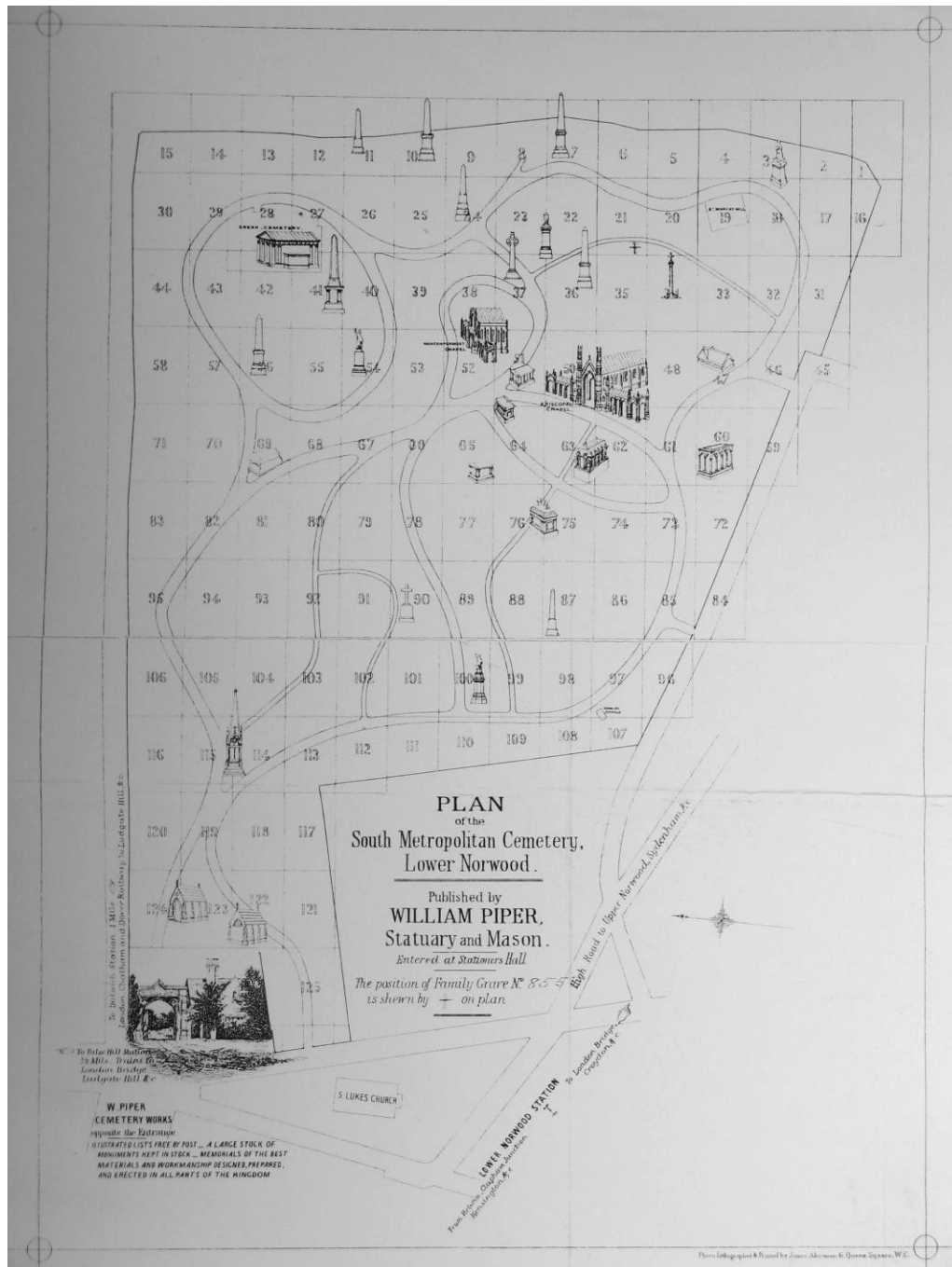
<https://booth.lse.ac.uk/notebooks/b312#?c=0&m=0&s=0&cv=203&z=1067.1124%2C77.6101%2C5225.587%2C2577.0833>

⁵⁵ Notebook: Nonconformist Churches and Missions District 40, page 39.

<https://booth.lse.ac.uk/notebooks/b313#?c=0&m=0&s=0&cv=25&z=968.696%2C1064.105%2C5172.0779%2C2550.6944>

Appendix G - West Norwood Cemetery plan

The South Metropolitan Cemetery was opened in 1837. It has since been renamed and is usually referred to as West Norwood Cemetery. This plan shows the location of the numbered squares in the Cemetery and so indicates approximately where some members of the Simpson family have been interred.



Appendix H: 44 Norwood High Street



44 Norwood High Street was the home of Robert Simpson and his family at the time of the census held on 6 June 1841. The building was demolished about 1978.